RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Teachers honoured with National Award by President of India are granted 50% concession in Second and Sleeper Class Mail/ Express fares.

(b) The following facilities are given to other awardees:

(1) 30% concession in Mail/express fares of all classes and in the fares of Rajdhani/Shatabdi trains to Police Personnel of 60 years and above who have received President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service.

(2) Free travel in Second/Sleeper class for children upto attaining 18 years of age honoured with National Bravery Award and 50% concession in Second/Sleeper class Mail/Express fares to either of Parent accompaying the child.

(3) Complimentary card passes are issued to Arjun Awardees, Olympic Medalists, Asian and Commonwealth Gold Medalists, Dronacharya Awardees, Winner of Chakra Series Gallantry Awards (Defence), Winners of President's Police Medal for Gallantry & Police Medal for Gallantry (Police).

(c) In view of the compelling needs for economy & austerity on the face of resource crunch, the scope of concession/ complimentary card passes is not being enlarged.

Railway Power Corporation

1515. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to set up an autonomous Indian Railway Power Corporation as a canalising agency for procurement of power;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have examined the proposal of National Thermal Power Corporation for equity participation in its power generation project; and

(d) if so, the reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) There is

as yet no decision to set up an autonomous Indian Railway Power Corporation as a canalising agency for procurement of power.

(c) and (d) Matter will be examined after a pre-feasibility study has been carried out.

Fitness of Pedapalli-Karimnagar Rail track

1516. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether experts find the new Peddapalli-Karimnagar track unfit for passenger trains;

(b) if so, whether soil quality was tested before carrying out the project; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

A.C. Accommodation in Gautami Express

1517. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to increase the AC accommodation on Gautami Express in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is need for more accommodation;

(c) what are the reasons for not adding additional coaches to Gautami Express; and

(d) the steps proposed to enhance accommodation in such trains in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) At present Gautami Express is running with maximum permissible load of 22 coaches leaving no room for attaching any extra coach.

(d) Proposals are on hand to augment Gautami Express to 24